

BOGUS PLAGUE

Unknown Writers Make Charges.

San Francisco Call Interviews Brand-
ed as False by Citizens
Of Honolulu.

Unpublished articles in the San Francisco Call make remarkable charges against the Board of Health of Honolulu and state on the authority of residents here that there never has been any bubonic plague in the islands. L. E. Pinkham, now in California, is quoted as saying that many learned doctors here pronounce the cases handled by the Board of Health not bubonic plague. The Call quotes a member of E. A. McInerney to the same effect.

E. A. McInerney writes to deny that his brother was interviewed and L. H. Comstock for Mr. Pinkham does a like service. Comstock says:

Editor Advertiser: Regarding the reported interview with L. E. Pinkham, published in the San Francisco Call of March 20th, I wish to say that in a letter written March 31st Mr. Pinkham says he is in no way responsible for the article, that he had seen no report, and further, that he had not made to anyone, the remarks attributed to him. In Mr. Pinkham's absence, I consider it only just to him, to correct what is evidently a gross mis-statement.

S. H. COMSTOCK.

Mr. McInerney says: "I am requested by my brother to state, through your paper, that the statements attributed to him in the San Francisco Call of March 20 are false in every particular. That he has had no interview with any newspaper or any other man, on the subject of plague in Honolulu."

"Further I want it to go on record that the Call's statements are not the views of my brother or any other member of this family."

"E. A. MCINERNEY."

The Call article that calls forth Mr. Pinkham's denial is as follows:

Private letters received in the last mail from Honolulu show that the business men of that city are just awakening to the fact that there has been a large percentage of bunko game in the black plague phantom that has hung over the islands during the past three months, bringing with it business disaster, destruction of property and the loss of millions of dollars to the public treasury.

A prominent business man of Honolulu now in this city has received word that on the eve of the sailing of the last steamer a call was about to be issued by the Chamber of Commerce for a public indignation meeting.

It is now openly asserted that there never has been a case of bubonic plague in Honolulu. L. E. Pinkham, a well-known railroad man from the Paradise of the Pacific, says that many learned

doctors have been studying the alleged cases of plague, and say that not one of the cases that came under the notice of the Board of Health was bubonic plague. The assertion is made that the disease which carried off so many of the Chinese, Japanese and Hawaiians was nothing more than a malignant type of typhoid and pneumonia.

Recently the streets of Honolulu have been dug up for the laying of a sewerage system. For years, particularly in the Chinese quarter, the soil had been saturated with filth. When it was turned up noisome smells came from the disturbed ground, and it was predicted that disease would follow.

A prominent sugar planter, who says that the plague scare has already cost him \$250,000, is in town, and expresses great indignation at the state of affairs. In an interview he said:

"Sixty deaths from typhoid fever and pneumonia in three months' time would never be considered a very high death rate in Honolulu. The natives die readily from almost any disease that takes a firm hold on them. I believe that many of the Chinese patients were scared to death. A San Francisco paper recently stated that a Chinese fireman on a transport in this harbor who was merely suffering from beriberi died after having been put through a rigid examination by the quarantine officials, lasting for an hour. The ship's surgeon stated openly at the time that he had been frightened to death. If a Chinese makes up his mind that he is a very sick man he will die anyway, even if he had only a toothache."

"The Board of Health at Honolulu has pounced upon every case of fever reported, and there is no doubt in my mind that their method of handling patients has often proved fatal. Take the case of Herman Levy, the hotel clerk, for instance. Even today the Health Board will not assert that he is suffering from the plague, yet when the board first took up his case they had him removed, at 2 o'clock in the morning, while he was dangerously ill, from his cottage to the pesthouse, where he still is. His own physician says that he suffered a relapse under this treatment, which will likely cost him his life or make him an invalid for the remainder of his days."

"In any case, I understand that Levy's relatives will bring a heavy damage suit against the Hawaiian Government. If the suit comes to trial there will likely be many interesting developments, and no doubt all available expert testimony will be introduced. It will at least be determined whether or not the plague ever did exist in Honolulu. If the suit is successful it will set the pace for several scores of similar suits, and the public purse will have to stand a tremendous drain."

There are now in Honolulu two learned Japanese doctors—one sent, it is stated, by the Japanese Government, and the other by a Japanese emigration society. Both are familiar with the bubonic plague in all its phases and both have been unable to find that it ever existed in Honolulu. Another physician, who spent many years in India and studied the disease there in all its forms, is now in Honolulu. He laughs at the idea that the plague has made its appearance in Honolulu. He saw several cases and pronounced them typhoid. He points out, too, that if the disease had ever existed in

AN ARTESIAN CHART.

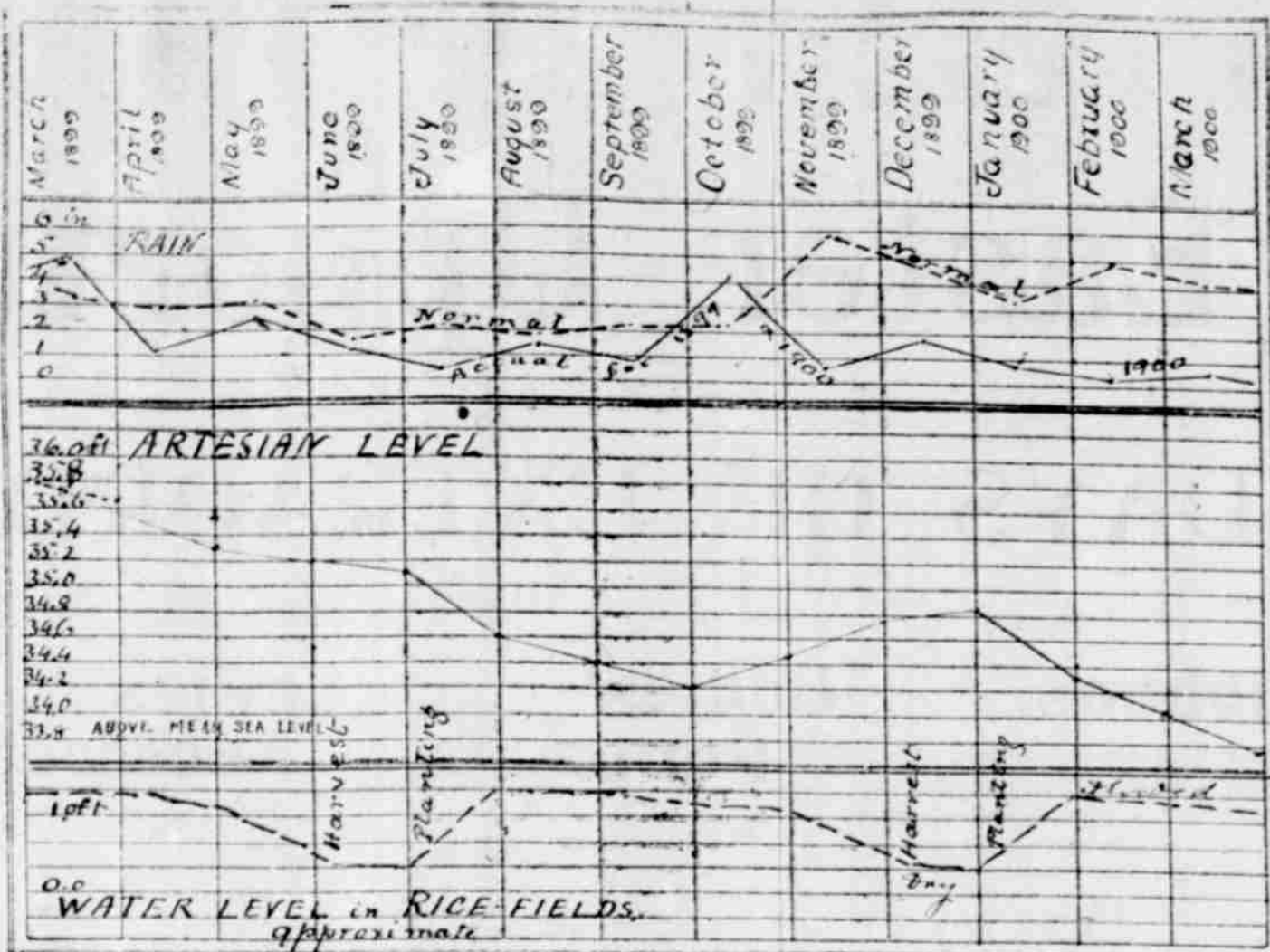


Diagram showing the relation between water level in artesian wells and the periods when the artesian well supply is drawn upon for rice cultivation; also the rainfall for thirteen months prior to the 1st of April, 1900. C. J. LYONS, Government Meteorologist.

The foregoing chart forms an interesting comparison of the supply of artesian water during the period when the ricefields in Waikiki district are flooded, and when harvest and planting time arrives. Mr. Curtis J. Lyons, the Government meteorologist, has closely watched the rise and fall of the artesian water supply for the last thirteen months, and his schematic chart follows the movement from March, 1899, to March, 1900. In March, 1899, the artesian water supply was flowing at 35.8 feet above mean sea level. At this time the rice plantations were filled with perhaps a foot of water. There was little rain then and from this month until October the artesian supply began to dwindle. Harvesting and planting took place from May to July, 1899, and the artesian water was then flooded into the rice plantations. The artesian well water fell from the 35.8-foot level to 34.2 feet in that time, beginning to rise once more when the rice plantation flooding was completed and left until the next harvest. Very little rain fell during the summer of 1899, the highest rainfall being recorded in October. This, according to theorists on water supply, had an appreciable effect upon the artesian supply, which arose only to 34.8 feet above sea level. The second harvest of the year was commenced in November, ending in January, and the same relative fall in the artesian water supply was noticed in the first harvest. This is due, so Mr. Lyons says, to the extraordinary drought now prevailing, and also from the prodigal use of water by rice plantation Chinamen. The water evaporates very quickly, but even then they waste it with an extravagance born of ignorance of its true value to the community. The water thus used and evaporated, Mr. Lyons says, would fill a reservoir twenty feet deep and a quarter of a mile across.

Honolulu over a period of three months or three weeks it would have become epidemic.

Such is the evidence that is now being collected by the business men of Honolulu and they are getting angry clear through, according to mail advices. The Board of Health has spent \$500,000 and destroyed \$1,500,000 worth of property and now it is causing for more money. Investigations have been set afoot concerning the manner in which the money has been spent, and there have been some startling revelations. The bacteriologist has been drawing a salary equal to that of the President of the republic in its palmy days and some of his associates are said to be doing as well. They have kept the people in terror by wav-

ing the black phantom over them, but the scare has played out and the business men will now call a halt. A fair estimate is that the plague scare has cost Hawaii \$2,500,000 and possibly will cost twice that much in damages to her commercial interests.

The charge is made that the Honolulu Board of Health has kept in its employ as guards and inspectors the worst class of men in the community, paying \$3 per day to men not capable of earning \$20 per month. These men are political roustabouts. It is charged that they get drunk on native beer and liquor and carouse with the very people they have been detailed to guard in quarantine. The quarantine has been a farce all the way through, but it has cost the taxpayers a fortune.

Honolulu people now in town are looking forward to a big sensation when the business men awaken and commence to inquire into the plague scare invented by the Board of Health.

The Government has handed over the Ermita Church, in a suburb of Manila, to the charge of Father McKinnon for the use of the American Catholics in Manila. With the placing of new pews and seats the edifice will assume all the appearances of an American Catholic church.

The British have ordered 2,500 more mules. What appetites those soldiers have!—The Baltimore American

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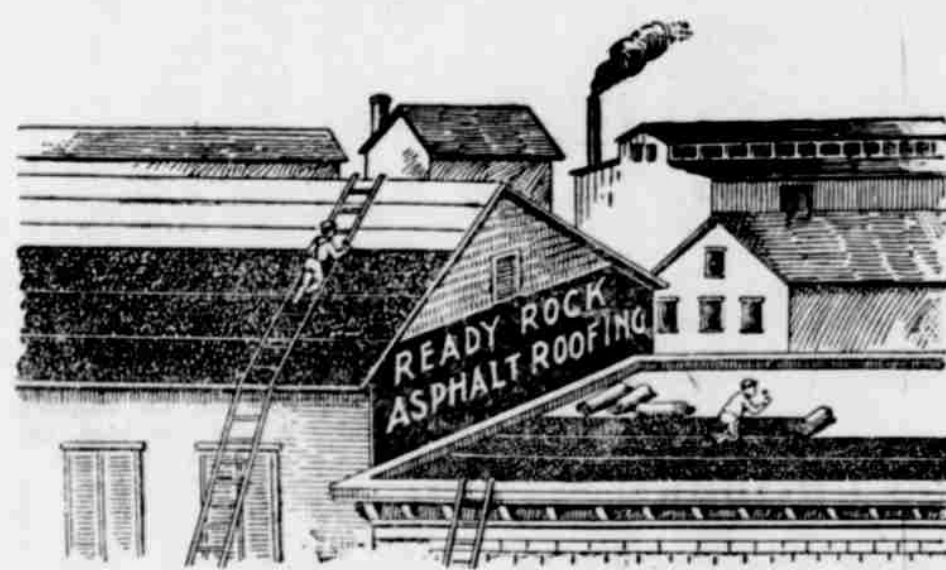
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